

Interpol warns of possible
Al-Qaeda attacks . . . pg 2

Two dead in Germany as more
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awareness month



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Minister Oduber personally brings holiday cheer to the offices of THE MORNING NEWS



It was smiles, hugs and handshakes all around as Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber, made a personal visit yesterday to the offices of THE MORNING NEWS on the Caya Betico Croes in Oranjestad.

The Minister came bearing gifts; a giant-sized Christmas

basket filled with goodies for staff members to snack on as they labor through the day to keep their dedicated readership informed of all that is interesting on the island. "I just wanted to express my deep gratitude for all that you do for Aruba's tourists and tourism product," said the minister as he pre-



sented his offering. "Your work is vitally important in providing island visitors insight into island culture and events. In less than one year you have established the paper as an important media presence and I congratulate you for that; it is quite an accomplishment."

Minister Oduber got a hearty hug from Manager Ingrid Does, a 30 year veteran of the news industry on Aruba, as well as Editors and partners Chandette Richardson and Rosalinda Maduro. His visit was brief but jubilant, as he was warmly welcomed by all THE MORNING NEWS staff, departing with best wishes for all of a happy holidays and a prosperous New Year.

by Rosalie Klein

Holiday festivities with Centro Kibrahacha



See story on page 4

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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Spot bag checks ordered for Washington metro

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Riders on the Washington metro system were warned yesterday to expect random checks of carry-on items two days after the government disclosed the arrest of an Afghan man for allegedly threatening to bomb the system.

The stepped-up security measures at the height of the Christmas shopping season also coincided with a warning by Interpol that it had received information about possible Al-Qaeda attacks in the United States and Europe.

Metro Transit Police "will conduct random inspections of carry-on items, as part of the continuously changing law enforcement programs designed to keep the system safe," the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority said in a statement.

Police will use bomb-sniffing dogs and sensors that rely

on ionization technology to check the bags for hazardous materials, it said.

The inspections would take only minutes and were designed to be "non-intrusive," it said.

"Carry on items will generally not be opened and physically inspected unless the equipment indicates a need for further inspection," it said.

People can refuse the inspections, but they will be prohibited from bringing their bags into stations, the agency said.

On Tuesday, the Justice Department disclosed that it arrested Awais Younis, an Afghan man, after he described on Facebook how to

build a pipe bomb that could maximize casualties on the Washington Metrorail.

During a chat last month Younis said the third and fifth cars on the Metro had the highest number of commuters on them and that he could place bombs there without being noticed, according to the affidavit.

"Complainant responded by saying 'You wouldn't do that,' and Younis responded by saying 'Watch me,'" the affidavit says, without providing further details on who turned Younis in.

He had also recently posted a message saying: "Christmas trees were going to go boom."

Two dead in Germany as more snow threatens Europe

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) - Two people were reported dead in a road accident in Germany yesterday as large parts of the country were buried under snow, causing traffic chaos and closing schools in several areas.

Neighbouring countries took precautionary action as another huge blizzard was forecast.

More than 170 road accidents were reported in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia alone and there were huge traffic jams on motorways across the country, with hundreds of stationary lorries backed up.

Bitterly cold weather was returning to Britain with a vengeance with widespread ice and snow due over the next few days, forecasters said.

Up to a foot (30 centimetres) of snow could fall in some areas by Saturday, with Scotland bracing for some of the most severe weather for

the second time this month.

Parts of Wales and Northern Ireland were also expected to be blanketed by snow.

France deployed armoured vehicles on key roads around Paris as the capital braced for another snowstorm, a week after being paralysed by the heaviest snowfall in almost 25 years.

Thirty-two French departments, or administrative regions, have been warned that they face snow and ice over the next 24 hours, with up to five centimetres forecast for the Paris region.

Heavy trucks were banned from roads in Luxembourg and southeastern Belgium as snow threatened to cause havoc for drivers.

Between 10 and 20 centimeters (four and eight inches) of snow were expected to fall in Belgium's hilly southern Ardennes area, the Royal Meteorological Institute said on its website.

Interpol warns of possible Al-Qaeda attacks in US, Europe

LYON, France (AFP) - Interpol said yesterday it had received information from its office in Baghdad about possible Al-Qaeda attacks on US and European targets.

"We received information yesterday from the Interpol office in Baghdad about possible threats, especially in the US and Europe, due to orders given to Al-Qaeda cells by Al-Qaeda commanders," the

global police agency said.

All 188 countries which are members of the agency have been informed of the possible threats, said a spokeswoman at Interpol's headquarters in the French city of Lyon.

Europe has been on high alert for several weeks over heightened fears of terrorist attacks in the run-up to the busy Christmas period.

Assange vows to clear name as freed on bail

LONDON, England (AFP) - WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange pledged to clear his name of allegations of sexual assault and pursue his work with the whistleblowing website after he was freed on bail by a London court yesterday.

"I hope to continue my work and continue to protest my innocence in this matter and to reveal as we get it -- which we have not yet -- the evidence from these allegations," Assange said on the steps of the High Court where

he was greeted by a scrum of photographers and cameramen.

Assange and his lawyers insist that moves to extradite him from Britain to Sweden to face questioning over allegations he sexually assaulted two women are politically motivated.

Amid a hail of camera flashes, Assange thanked "all the people around the world who have had faith in me, who have supported my team while I have been away."

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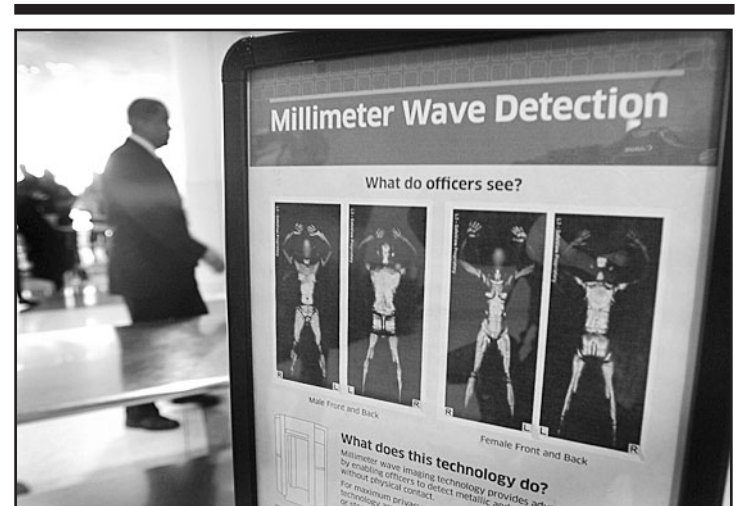
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CHICAGO, Illinois-- A sign informs travelers about Millimeter Wave Detection technology used in full body scanners at Midway Airport in Chicago, Illinois. Transportation Security Administration agents began using the new scanners at the airport for the first time yesterday. (AFP PHOTO)



Tony A.D. Green

www.people-self-development.com

Four ways to get over your Christmas blues

Yes, it is the time to be jolly... it is Christmas time when everyone is bouncing around, shopping and decorating and singing. The thought of eating ham, turkey, delicious cakes and drinking exotic drinks - and of meeting with family and friends excite most of us. Even children are ecstatic about Christmas because for them it means getting new things and lovely toys and other gifts.

But, you'll be amazed to discover that a great number of people simply abhor the yuletide season! They wish that Christmas would never come or that it would blow away with the wind. They can't stand the singing of the "aguinaldos" (traditional Aruban Christmas music), nor can they stand the hustle and bustle of people shopping for gifts and making merry.

Why is this you ask? Well, these people have great difficulty coping with the loss of some loved one who will not be with them for Christmas! Someone who always shared their Christmases in the past, the person with whom they exchanged gifts and laughter at Christmas is no longer with them. It may be that the person died, or that the person walked out of their life through a divorce or separation.

So, Christmas time is an extremely sad time for them, and they succumb to depression.

Psychologists report an increase in clients suffering from depression and/or suicidal thinking at this time of the

year. Many, many people who have lost someone have real difficulty dealing with their emotions at Christmas time. The memory of the missing person brings gloom rather than gladness...and they don't know how to cope with the loss at Christmas time!

If this is you or someone you know, what should you do? Firstly, you must rebuke any and all feelings of guilt. Feeling guilty for something over which you had little or no control will cripple your ability to see things clearly and ruin your emotions. Alright, that person you loved and cared for walked out of your life; and perhaps you had some fault in the process, but it is now time to get on with your life. Stop blaming yourself, stop musing over the mistakes made, stop feeling guilty and get up and go to the next level! Remember, no matter how bad the situation was, or how ugly you feel about it all, you can always begin again! Make this Christmas your new beginning, rather than bemoaning the past!

Or, there is that person you loved that died. There is nothing you can do to change that. Death is final. Instead of sobbing, and sadness, try singing. You can be sure that that person would want you to be happy.

Secondly, release all sad emotions. Empty your bucket of tears. This is particularly helpful and therapeutic if you have not really cried over your loss. Get alone somewhere or

with one person you trust and feel really comfortable with and let your feelings just hang out...cry, cry, and cry, and empty your bucket. Then, wipe off those tears and move on to a new you without the burden of grief you've been carrying.

Thirdly, reach out to someone in need. Stop looking in and look around you for someone who has a need that you can meet. Maybe it is someone who needs some food, or who needs a hand with a difficult chore around the house, or who needs someone to listen to his/her sad experience so they can empty their bucket of tears. When you reach out to others something magical and mysterious happens to you. You gain a brand new perspective on your life and you discover that your worth is far more than you estimated!

Your loneliness and feelings of depression dissipate and you find new strength to go on.

And, there is one final thing that you must do, and that is; put your faith and trust in the 'reason for the season'...Jesus Christ, for whom we celebrate this wonderful season of the year. It is Jesus who came to mankind on Christmas day to bring us salvation and peace and joy. Lean on Him and you will be granted His peace and joy! After all, Christmas is about Jesus! Determine today that you will get up and begin again...with Jesus, the greatest Christmas gift ever given! Merry Christmas!

- Food for Thought! -

Avoid Impulse Spending

Answer these questions truthfully

- 1.) Does your spouse or partner complain that you spend too much money?
- 2.) Do you have more shoes and clothes in your closet than you could ever possibly wear?
- 3.) Do you buy things you didn't know you wanted until you saw them on display in a store?

If you answered "yes" to any two of the these questions, you are an impulse spender and indulge yourself in what I call "retail therapy."

This is not a good thing. It will prevent you from having money for the important things like a house, a new car, a vacation or retirement. You must set some financial goals and resist spending money on items that really don't matter in the long run, things that you really don't need right now.

Impulse spending will not only put a strain on your finances but also on your relationships. Too many relationships are in distress because of bad spending. To overcome the problem, the first thing to do is learn to separate

your needs from your wants. Every time you see something you want to buy before you make a move ask yourself these two questions:

1. *do I really, really need this?*
2. *do I really, really need this NOW?*

Advertisers blitz are hawking their products at us 24/7. The trick is to give yourself a cooling-off period before you buy anything that you have not planned for.

When you go shopping, make a list and take only enough cash to pay for what you have planned to buy.

Leave your credit cards at home.

If you see something you think you really need, give yourself two weeks to decide if it is really something you need or something you can easily do without. By following this simple solution, you will mend your financial fences and your relationships. Make yourself happy for spending wisely, and see your partner appreciate you more and your money wisdom.

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Crown Electronics helps Meals on Wheels



ORANJESTAD - During the holiday season, Facebook social networkers can visit the FB page of Crown Electronics and "Become a Fan" with a simple click of the mouse. This will automatically connect you to the San Nicolas foundation "Meals on Wheels." The well-known volunteer organization helps San Nicolas senior citizens with a weekly hot meal. However, in order to continue with their charity work they need the support of the community.

Since Crown Electronics & Furniture opened its doors in 2004, it has seen great success largely due to competitive prices and frequent promotions which reward consumers with big savings.

This holiday season, Crown wishes to help local foundations and give back to the community. For every person who becomes a fan on their Facebook page, the establishment will donate Afls 1 to Meals on Wheels. Crown Electronics & Furniture has no less than 8,496 friends on its fan page. The more friends it has the more the establishment can give to the less fortunate.

Crown Electronics & Furniture has three branches, one in Steenweg, Oranjestad, one in Avenida Milio Croes, Dakota, one in Turibana Plaza, Noord, and now they have a sister store "Casi Nobo" - "Almost New" - situated in the Dakota Shopping Paradise. They are open Monday to Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. non-stop and on Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



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Holiday festivities with Centro Kibrahacha



Centro Kibrahacha for 60 plussers celebrated the holidays with their more than 200 members, staff and volunteers with a gala luncheon at the Holiday Inn Sunspree resort yesterday, December 16. Always a festive event, they welcomed holiday entertainers Coro la Escala under the Direction of Hector (Chi-Chi) Perez, and Black Diamond Trio for a day of fine dining, fun dancing and holiday cheer.

Centro Kibrahacha conducts courses, hosts social events and holiday fetes for Aruba's elderly, providing continual stimulus, friendship and interaction to improve the quality of their lives. Their special parties are often attended by children of their members, and they operate five days a week, providing bussing for many who cannot drive and have no one to transport them.

Sharing the day with Kibrahacha alumni was Director Diana Uchtmann, President of the Board Lufrido Croes, and long time staff member, Femke Fingal, whose husband, Romo, always volunteers to be the exciting MC that keeps the action going. All their "clients" were dressed in their holiday best, often in fetching red outfits to mark the occasion, and the Holiday Inn culinary team provided a memorable repast and a charming seasonal ambiance.

by Rosalie Klein



Breakfast

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

EGG DISHES

- *2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese
- *Scrambled with ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, tomato, mushroom
- *Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom

All egg dishes are served with a choice of : white or whole wheat baguette or sliced toasted bread.

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*CRÊPES

*SWEET CRÊPES

*BAGEL with cream cheese, smoked salmon, boiled egg

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- *FISH EGG
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Mr. and Mrs. Blomberg from Sweden choose Bucuti and Aruba to wed



Emira Ghaddab from Mariestad, Sweden and Andreas Blomberg from Vasteras, Sweden exchanged their vows on Bucuti's 14 acres of pristine, powder-white beach. Emira and Andreas officially married in Oranjestad's historical Civil House with the charming architecture, wooden floors and elegant chandeliers providing a magnificent atmosphere. Following the legal ceremony the couple enjoyed their intimate beach blessing, officiated by Reverend Diane Keijzer. Andreas is an IT team manager at Thomas Cook Northern Europe and Emira works as a recruitment consultant.

The couple met in 2003 at the Orebro University while being members in the same student association. "We got engaged in Paris, last year on Emira's birthday, during a nightly picnic in the park beneath the Eiffel Tower" shared the romantic groom.

"We chose Aruba for its weather and white sandy beaches and Bucuti for our wedding because it is the perfect place for honeymooners, quiet and relaxing," explained Mr. and Mrs. Blomberg. "going away to get married is nice, because you get to focus on what's really important. No stress! And with the help from our wedding coordinator Nashette Wouters, we could just relax and enjoy the moment in these beautiful surroundings. "We really love Aruba and will come back for our anniversary!" expressed the happy newly wedded couple.

Mr. and Mrs. Blomberg celebrated their honeymoon in one of Bucuti's award winning Ocean view deluxe rooms.

Diane Keijzer
dianekeijzer@yahoo.com

photos by Elnathan









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No Dutch cannabis for foreigners, says EU court

LUXEMBOURG, (AFP) Europe's top court ruled Thursday that Dutch authorities can bar foreigners from cannabis cafes, upholding a border town's restriction as a justified measure to combat drug tourism.

Inundated by foreign visitors, the town of Maastricht, near the Belgian and German borders, imposed a new law in 2005 to prohibit marijuana-selling "coffee shops" from admitting people who do not reside in the Netherlands.

Maastricht's 14 pot cafes attract around 10,000 visitors every day, or 3.9 million a year, and 70 percent of them are not from the Netherlands, according to town data cited by the European Court of Justice.

The town's restrictions comply with European Union law despite the 27-nation bloc's freedom of movement regulations, the Luxembourg-based court ruled.



"That restriction is justified by the objective of combating drug tourism and the accompanying public nuisance," the court said, adding that it is a concern for the public order and health of citizens in all EU states.

The mayor of Maastricht temporarily closed the Easy Going coffee shop in September 2006 after it admitted two non-residents.

The owner of the establishment, Marc Josemans, challenged the decision and argued that the legislation represented an unjustified, unequal treatment of EU citizens, the court said.

He also stated that the law, in contradiction with EU laws, denies non-residents the possibility of buying non-alcoholic drinks and food in coffee shops.

But the top court ruled that a coffee shop owner could not rely on the EU's freedom of movement and non-discrimination principles to market cannabis.

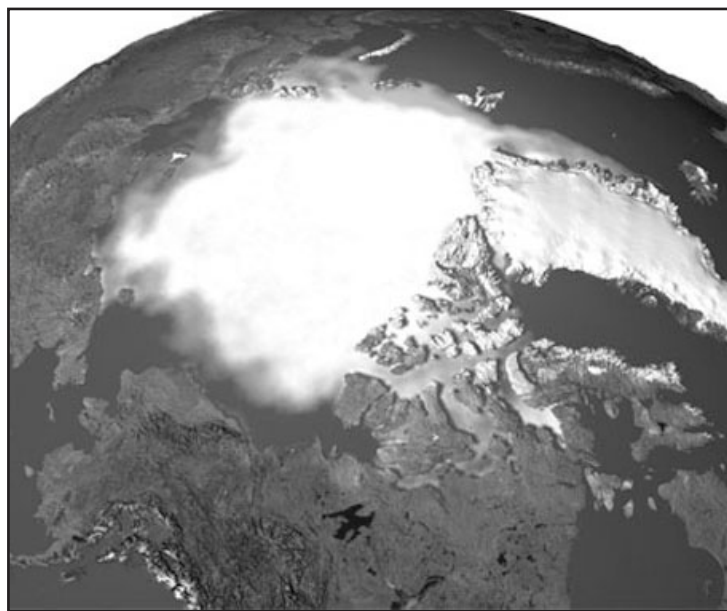
The governments of Belgium, Germany and France have linked drug tourism to "public order problems," including the illegal export of marijuana, in their own countries, the court noted.

Though it remains technically illegal, the Netherlands decriminalised the consumption and possession of under five grammes (0.18 ounces) of cannabis in 1976 under a "tolerance" policy.

There are about 700 licenced coffee shops in the country.

Sci-Tech

Arctic icecap safe from runaway melting: study



PARIS (AFP) - There is no "tipping point" beyond which climate change will inevitably push the Arctic ice cap into terminal melt off, according to a study released Wednesday.

The northern polar cap has shrunk between 15 and 20 percent over the last 30 years, unleashing concern that on current trends -- with regional temperature increases twice or triple the global average -- it could disappear entirely during the summer months by century's end.

One of the factors in this calculation is a so-called positive feedback, in which a reduced area of floating ice helps to stoke global warming.

As ice cover recedes decade by decade, more of the Sun's radiative force is absorbed by dark-blue sea rather than bounced back into space by reflective ice and snow.

But a new study published in the British science journal *Nature* shows that there is nothing inevitable about this process, and that it can be halted or even reversed.

"There is no 'tipping point' that would result in unstoppable loss of summer sea ice when greenhouse gas-driven warming rose above a certain threshold," said Steven Amstrup, a professor at the University of Washington and lead author of the study.

Up to now, many scientists worried that there was an as yet unidentified temperature threshold which, once passed, would doom the ice cap.

But the study, based on computer models, indicates that if annual emissions of greenhouse gases are substantially reduced over the next two decades, an initial

phase of rapid ice loss would be followed by a period of stability and, eventually, partial recovery.

If so, that could mean a reprieve for polar bears, which use floating ice shelves as a staging areas for stalking ringed and bearded seals, their preferred food.

Already today, many of the majestic predators are teetering on the edge of starvation because the ice melts sooner in spring and forms later in autumn, shortening their hunting season.

The new research "offers a very promising, hopeful message," said co-author and University of Washington professor Cecilia Blitz.

"But it's also an incentive for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions," she said in a statement.

In earlier research, Amstrup and colleagues had calculated that only a third of the world's estimated 22,000 polar bears would still be around by 2050, and that even these survivors could eventually disappear.

In 2008, Washington listed polar bears under the Endangered Species Act.

Earlier this week, more than 150 biologists and climate scientists called in an open letter on US President Barack Obama to step up action to save the Arctic's top predator.

The US Department of the Interior faces a court-imposed deadline next week on whether polar bears should continue to be classified merely as "threatened" or given maximum protection under US law as "endangered."

And a separate study also published in *Nature* Wednesday warned that melting ice

was pushing Arctic mammals to breed with cousin species, in a trend that could be pushing the polar bear and other iconic animals towards extinction.

Science of man-made life can proceed: US panel

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A White House panel said on Thursday the controversial field of synthetic biology, or manipulating the DNA of organisms to forge new life forms, poses limited risks and should be allowed to proceed.

An expert commission convened by President Barack Obama advised vigilance and self-regulation as scientists seek ways to create new organisms that could spark useful innovations in clean energy, pollution control and medicine.

The Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues "concluded that synthetic biology is capable of significant but limited achievements posing limited risks," it said in its first report.

"Future developments may raise further objections, but the Commission found no reason to endorse additional federal regulations or a moratorium on work in this field at this time."

The 13-member panel of scientists, ethicists and public policy experts was created by Obama last year.

Its first order of business was to consider the issue of synthetic biology after the J. Craig Venter Institute announced in May it had developed the first self-replicating bacteria cell controlled by a synthetic genome.

Critics said the discovery was tantamount to "playing God," creating organisms without adequate understanding the ramifications, and upsetting the natural order.

Announcing the creation of the "first synthetic cell," lead researcher Craig Venter said at the time it "certainly changed my views of the definitions of life and how life works."

But the commission said Venter's team had not actually created life, since the work mainly involved altering an already existing life form.

"Thoughtful deliberation about the meaning of this

achievement was impossible in the hours that elapsed between the breaking news and the initial round of commentaries that ensued," it said in its report.

"Of note, many scientists observe that this achievement is not tantamount to 'creating life' in a scientific sense because the research required a functioning, naturally occurring host cell to accept the synthesized genome."

Commission chair Amy Gutmann said the panel considered a range of approaches to regulating the new scientific field, from allowing unbridled freedom to imposing strict government regulation on experiments.

"We chose a middle course to maximize public benefits while also safeguarding against risks," she said.

"Prudent vigilance suggests that federal oversight is needed and can be exercised in a way that is consistent with scientific progress."



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Handout photo taken and released on December 16, 2010 by Canadian architect Frank Gehry shows an artists impression of his latest work, the 150 million USD business school at Sydney's University of Technology. Gehry said the project would "generate some questions" but he was confident the wrinkly tree-house design would ultimately be embraced. The 11-storey building, which will begin construction in 2012 on the university's existing campus, will be Gehry's only Australian design. (AFP PHOTO)

Health & Living

Australians have highest rate of skin cancer: study



SYDNEY, Australia (AFP) – Australia's sun worshipping culture means the country's 22 million people are 13 times more likely to develop skin cancer than the global average, according to a new study released Thursday.

The "Cancer in Australia 2010" report compiled by a government agency revealed that the sun-drenched and

beach-loving nation has the globe's highest rate of deadly melanoma and one of the highest overall rates of cancer.

Melanoma -- the most virulent form of skin cancer -- is caused by harmful ultraviolet light from the sun.

Australia's proximity to Antarctica, where there is a hole in the ozone layer that filters out UV rays, also increases the risk.

However, higher rates of detection and tracking also explain the number of cases of cancer diagnosed each year, according to lead researcher Christine Sturrock from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

"The fact we are very good at tracking cancers goes some way to explaining this, as most other countries are not as good," Sturrock told AFP.

"But we have the highest rate of skin cancer in the

world."

The overall number of Australians being diagnosed with cancer increased by 27 percent between 1982 and 2007, even taking population growth into account, due in part to the country's ageing population.

However, death rates from the disease have fallen by 16 percent in the same period, which Sturrock said was the one of the most pleasing findings from the report, which analysed cancer data from across the country.

"One of the most positive findings to emerge was the dramatic decrease in deaths from cancers," she said.

The report also identified an increased incidence of lymphoid cancers, prostate cancer and breast cancer among people living in higher socio-economic areas. However, Sturrock said the reasons for this remained unclear.

California mom sues McDonald's over Happy Meals



LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) – A mother-of-two from California launched a class-action

lawsuit against McDonald's, claiming the toys given out with Happy Meals unfairly lure kids into eating unhealthy food.

Monet Parham is spearheading the suit backed by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), aimed at stopping

the fast-food giant's use of toys in marketing aimed directly at small children.

The CSPI says such marketing illegally exploits children. Parham says the main reason her six-year-old daughter, Maya, asks to go to McDonald's is to get toys based on Barbie, i-Carly, Shrek, or Strawberry Shortcake.

"I am concerned about the health of my children and feel that McDonald's should be a very limited part of their diet and their childhood experience," said Parham, from Sacramento.

"But as other busy, working moms and dads know, we have to say 'no' to our young children so many times, and McDonald's makes that so much harder to do.

"I object to the fact that McDonald's is getting into my kids' heads without my permission and actually changing what my kids want to eat."

The CSPI cited the Institute of Medicine and the American Psychological Association as saying that "kids as young as Maya do not have the cognitive maturity to understand the persuasive intent of advertising."

"Every time McDonald's markets a Happy Meal directly to a young child, it exploits a child's developmental vulnerability and violates several states' consumer protection laws," said CSPI litigation director Steve Gardner.

McDonald's said it would defend itself against the lawsuit, which Parham and the CSPI said they were filing in the California Superior Court in San Francisco.

"We are proud of our Happy Meals and intend to vigorously defend our brand," spokeswoman Bridget Coffing told the LA Times newspaper, adding that Happy Meals offer quality foods in smaller portions appropriate for children.

"We are confident that parents understand and appreciate that Happy Meals are a fun treat, with quality, right-sized food choices for their children that can fit into a balanced diet," she added.

The action came after San Francisco last month agreed to ban promotional toys served with food that doesn't meet strict nutritional standards, following a similar move in nearby Santa Clarita in April.



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Social networking sites can help prevent pandemics: experts



CASABLANCA, Morocco (AFP) – Social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter greatly help in detecting and containing the spread of pandemics, experts at a global health conference said.

The plethora of information on the Internet is almost a new stage in the detection and prevention of contagious diseases, they said at the gathering which ended Wednesday.

"Social networking sites such as Twitter or Facebook, which are interactive and contributory, can help in the detection and prevention of pandemics," said Patty Kostkova, a researcher at London's City University, speaking to AFP in translated remarks.

"These networks can also make interactions between doctors and patients more effective," she said.

Others said tweets and messages from worried local populations could also lead to the detection of emerging pandemics.

"Putting together the mass of information which circulates in and through social networking sites, adding them up and then officially recognising them as important," said Gayo Diallo, a university researcher in Bordeaux, France university.

"We can also use social networks through Smartphones to treat a patient at home instead of hospitalising them," he said.



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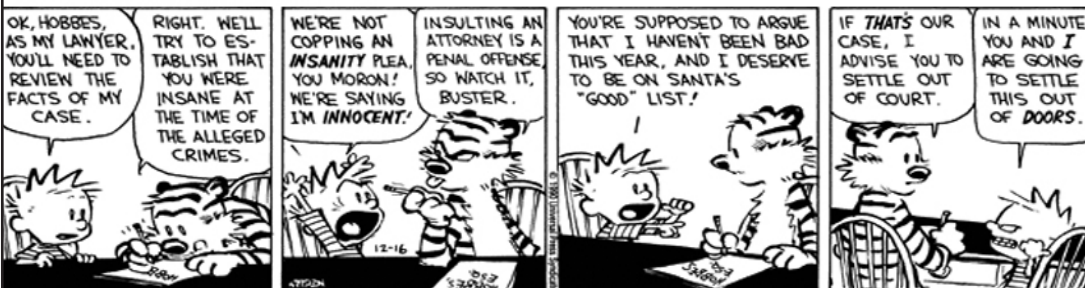
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ACROSS

1. Biblical land
5. Hot dish
10. Martin et al.
15. "When I was..."
19. Island east of Java
20. Glorify
21. Ike's opponent
22. Arizona Indian people
23. Wild guy
25. Chester Goode's boss
27. Guido's note
28. Clumsy boats
29. Gawky
31. Union between Cyprus and Greece
32. Fruits of the rose
33. Water closets
34. Sunnybrook, for one
35. Passions
38. Pacifies
39. Cover with streamers
43. Harvests
44. Wet, poetically
45. Ottoman Empire standard
46. Actress Merkel

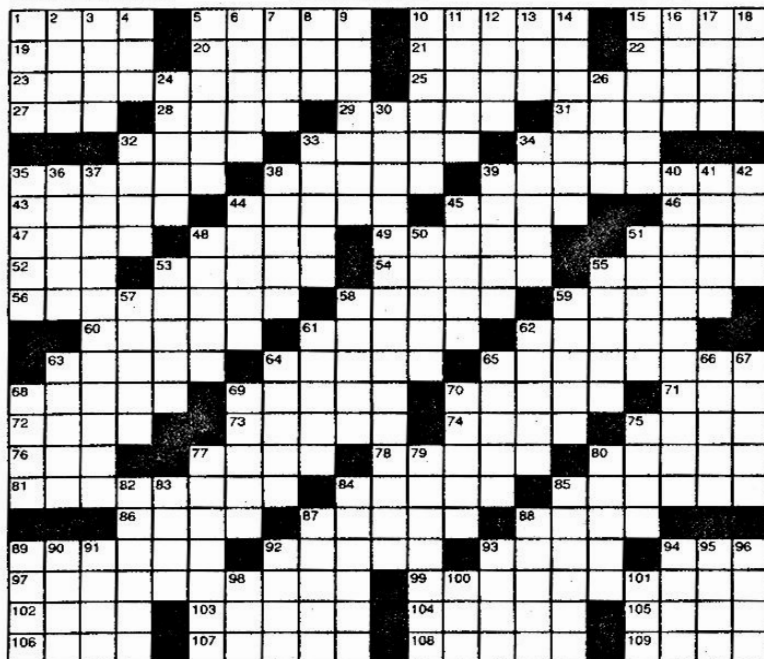
DOWN

47. Excommunication edicts
48. Inflamed
49. Fix firmly
51. Advanced degrees: abbr.
52. I hate: Latin
53. Dazes
54. Yellowish soil
55. Be appropriate for
56. Enlists anew
58. Malay laws
59. Ethiopian province
60. Navigation aid
61. Efts
62. Climbing plant
63. Nautical term
64. Rupee parts
65. Power failure
68. Reprove
69. Danger
70. Soup base
71. Chess pieces: abbr.
72. Cote sounds
73. Renewed a stamp pad
74. Darn it!
75. TV's Wheelchel
76. Ode subject

77. Seines
78. Estranges from a habit
80. Harvesting machine
81. Breath: prefix
84. Summoning gestures
85. Leaps
86. Super star
87. Place for a bride
88. Curve
89. Yellowish-brown
92. Violin family
93. Spanish painter
94. Gorcey
97. Folksong subject
99. Legendary Grand Canyon digger
102. Potentates
103. Express thought
104. Cuttlefish
105. Irish-Gaelic
106. Match
107. Seasons
108. Atelier sight
109. Equal

DOWN

1. French cleric
2. Marsh hen
3. Actress Nazimova
4. Wire measure
5. Makes like a bird
6. Pawns
7. Fills a pen



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		5	2			6	1	
8		2	3	6				
	3		7					8
3			8				2	
7				3				9
	2				6			7
5					3		6	
				8	5	7		1
	4	3			7	5		

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

SOLUTIONS

2	8	9	1	6	9	8	4	1
1	8	2	9	8	4	9	6	2
4	9	6	8	2	1	2	8	9
2	9	8	9	1	6	8	2	4
6	4	8	2	8	9	1	9	2
9	2	1	4	2	8	6	9	8
8	6	2	1	9	2	4	8	9
9	2	4	6	9	8	2	1	8
8	1	9	8	4	2	9	2	6



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Finance



COLOMBO, Sri Lanka --A Sri Lankan Central Bank employee holds up commemorative 5,000 rupee (45 dollar) gold plated coins issued to mark the bank's 60th anniversary in Colombo yesterday. Sri Lanka's post-war economy expanded by eight percent for the three months to September, the bank said, as analysts warned the rapid growth could stoke inflation. The tropical island economy has grown at a blistering pace since government troops in May 2009 ended a 37-year ethnic conflict with Tamil Tiger rebels that the United Nations estimates left over 100,000 people dead. The bank tips the 42-billion-dollar economy to expand eight percent in 2010 and nine percent in 2011. (AFP PHOTO)



FOZ DO IGUAÇU, Brazil -- Argentina's Foreign Minister Hector Timerman(L), Argentina's Trade Minister Debora Giorgi(C) and Brazil's Foreign Minister Celso Amorim talk during the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) Council, within the XL Mercosur Summit, in Foz de Iguacu, Brazil. South America's Mercosur trade partners signed on the eve a preferential tariff deal ---which gives a 20-percent tariff break on 70 percent of the goods sold among participating countries-- with several developing nations including India, officials said. (AFP PHOTO)



File photo shows a Wall Street sign is seen in 2006. A star player at troubled US banking titan Goldman Sachs is set to leave his post and set up a Hong Kong-based hedge fund that could be one of the largest in Asia, a report said yesterday. (AFP PHOTO)

Seaweed demands fall



PUERTO MONTT, Chile -- Photo depicts pickers of "Pelillo" (Gracilaria Chilensis) loading a truck with the seaweed before selling it, in Puerto Montt, 1016 km south of Santiago. Chile started to cultivate this seaweed in 1960, when Japan began to use it in the food and pharmaceutical industry, but its development decreased due to the water pollution caused by fishing companies. Workers collect about five tons seaweed and earn 60 dollars a day. About 60,000 tons of damp "pelillo" are collected annually in southern Chile. (AFP PHOTO)

Europe acts to protect euro from debt shocks

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) -- Europe moved yesterday to shore up the euro despite divisions over how to bury market fears of a fresh debt crisis engulfing Portugal and Spain.

European Union leaders met behind closed doors to lay the foundation for a permanent financial rescue system from January 2013 to protect the eurozone -- a new milestone in the evolution of the 27-nation EU.

"We all share the same objective: to ensure a stable Europe and currency," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said, calling the future euro crisis umbrella a "big piece of solidarity between the states that share the euro."

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, whose government was forced to implement deeply unpopular austerity measures in return for a 110-billion-euro bailout in May, said all of Europe had to act together.

"The challenge today is not what we as member states or nations are doing to shore up our (individual) economy, the challenge is a collective one now," he said.

As the summit was getting

underway Moody's Investors Service warned that it could further downgrade its rating on Greek sovereign bonds because of doubts over the country's capacity to reduce its debt to sustainable levels.

Moody's took similar action against Spain, another financially vulnerable eurozone country, on Wednesday.

The outcome of the summit here is keenly awaited on financial markets that have been in a state of high uncertainty and nervousness for months, driving Ireland to follow Greece into rescues by the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

Under-pressure Portugal and Spain are to provide details of national economic reforms after leaders agreed at their last gathering in October to tighten budgetary discipline.

EU leaders though are divided on calls to boost the coffers of a temporary rescue fund and to create joint eurozone bonds to help governments of weaker economies borrow money at lower interest rates.

Overall backstop emergency resources currently total 750 billion euros (about a tril-

lion dollars) when IMF and non-euro EU contributions are added to the eurozone's 440-billion-euro fund.

But in a clear warning that political solidarity needs to be anchored in hard cash, the European Central Bank said shortly before the summit opened that it will almost double its reserves.

The ECB has bought 72 billion euros of government bonds to contain gaps in yields between Germany and financially struggling eurozone states since May and is urging governments to beef up the EFSF.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

SHARP	TEAM	ERAS	PESOS
CANDOR	OLLA	RARE	ARENA
OTTO	SEAL	DERGENT	LEMER
TRIFTER	NEED	EASE	IRA
STAIR	EMIR	SERER	
SAG	ACID	OTIS	STOKES
PURIS	SAMARI	SPARNE	APOLI
ARIL	SELES	SHEA	SERGE
CASES	ETES	LETT	DEAN
ESTATES	ILLUS	VIES	ARA
CATAMAL	UTHE	VEVETE	
TOM	YOHO	BEERO	EMERGES
AVON	NAVE	DART	TRAIT
PILLOT	READ	IDEAS	OLGA
INDOMAR	ARTES	GENT	COLLEG
RESALE	SETH	SERB	SRS
DEEPS	METS	SEER	
SHE	SONS	RENO	ELATED
MEXI	PELICAN	DOMIN	IVATI
ERASE	ADAR	GRID	SEPAL
WOMAN	RENT	ETTA	KNELL

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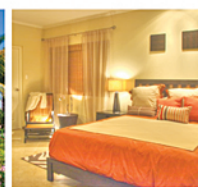
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BACK THEN

On a scale of 1-10, the locally-grown Madame Jeanette chile pepper is 8.5. We're talking HOT! HOT! HOT!

Although Arubans have been enjoying the pleasures for eons, other cultures moving to the island have had to discover the flame that raises food to a new plateau.

Fishermen caught the fish, had a pot waiting with fresh vegetables and seasonings simmering, beheaded, deboned, cut up and tossed it into the pot. After an instinctive time of cooking, a swipe of the hot pepper was enough to tingle the tonsils.

Throw the seeds in the weedy area at the beach and it would grow on its own; brave and strong. Those not aware of heat, were stung and seen jumping and moaning. A dash to the sea didn't help. Water, internally or externally is not a soothing agent. Capsaicin, the chemical in the chile pepper, is not water soluble. It is also not affected by age or by being frozen and can be detected by human taste buds in solutions of one part per million!

To quench the fire starchy,



sugary or fatty foods will: milk, rice, sweet fruits, bread. Beer or soda will not.

Arubans know their "pica" (to sting) as a somewhat plump, wrinkly-faced, walnut-sized powerhouse in green, red or yellow. With more than 2,000 known varieties worldwide, (A recently discovered one it rates so far off the Scoville heat measurement scale that some consider it arrived on earth as an alien.) Madam Jeanet is close to the top.

Zero is the rating for sweet banana pepper (no heat);

2,500 to 5,000 for the jalapeño; 100,000 to 300,000 for the habañero; the Madam is in the 200,000 plus range.

Mixing it, seedless and finely chopped (seeds left raise the heat scale), with fresh papaya, onions and vinegar is a longtime favorite preparation and now available in supermarkets island-wide. When restaurants offer "pica" it may be the bottled liquid version such as Tabasco. Nowhere near Aruba's renowned Madame Jeanette.

A back then and still now is one-of-the-best is the "Honeymoon Sauce" available at the landmark Charlie's Bar in San Nicolas fast approaching it's 70th anniversary in December 2011.

"A warning goes with this very famous and very hot! pica which is served alongside of, on top of, or with 'just the juice' to soups, stews, meat, fish and vegetables. For first-timers, please start with 'un tiki' (a little bit); for those whose palates are accustomed to hot!, we suggest you also go 'poco poco' (slowly) and then go for it!"



- 2 whole Madame Jeanette peppers, minced
- 1/2 white onion, minced
- 2 carrots, peeled and minced
- 1 celery stick with leaves, minced
- pinch each ground coriander, salt
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 cup white vinegar

Mix all ingredients well in glass bowl. Transfer to glass jar with tight cover and refrigerate overnight to allow flavors to develop. Pungency will continue to grow as the sauce sits.

Recipe courtesy of Charlie's Bar and "Aruba Cooks."

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UN chief Ban's secret: boxers not briefs



(AFP) — UN leader Ban Ki-moon has revealed one of the secrets that did not come out on WikiLeaks: he is a boxers not briefs man.

The UN secretary general, who was allegedly the target of US orders to get personal details, mocked the leaked diplomatic cables in a tongue-in-cheek speech to the annual UN Correspondents' Association dinner late

Wednesday.

Ban started his speech, to an audience that included US ambassador Susan Rice, by flashing details such as "credit card number" "shoe size" and "ring finger 7.5" onto the screen.

"Boxers not briefs" proclaimed one of the nuggets given to the diplomatic audience.

According to the leaked cables, reported by international media, US diplomats at the United Nations were told to find out the credit card numbers, email addresses, phone, fax and pager numbers and even frequent-flyer numbers for UN leaders.

The US ambassador featured in her own spoof, a UN Security Council debate on how to counter the bedbug epidemic that has gripped New York.

CNN host Larry King hands over his vintage microphone

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — Veteran CNN talk show host Larry King handed up his famous suspenders yesterday, after a quarter of a century of interviewing the powerful and famous.

The 77-year-old, who will be succeeded by former British journalist Piers Morgan, is finally retiring from "Larry King Live," the show he has presented on the Atlanta-based news network since 1985.

Typically combining high politics with showbiz news and gossip, interviewees on his final shows this week have included Barbra Streisand and former British premier Tony Blair.

Born Larry Zeiger in Brooklyn, the CNN icon has become one of the most recognizable figures on US television, after previously anchoring a national radio show for seven years.

Over the decades the gravel-voiced broadcaster has quizzed everyone who is anyone on his nightly programme, including every US president since Gerald Ford.

Other highlights included Playboy founder Hugh Hefner with a bevy of Playmate girlfriends, Mike Tyson interviewed inside the boxing ring at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

While critics say his interviewing style can be too soft-soap, others argue that's why he gets everyone to come on his show, winning scoops which some credit with helping establish CNN in its early days.

The Emmy award-winner has conducted over 40,000 in-



terviews over the years, and recently broke the world record for the same TV interview show in the same time slot with the same presenter.

To celebrate his 40th anniversary in broadcasting, Tinseltown honored King in 1997 with a star on the Walk of Fame on Hollywood Boulevard, a short walk from CNN's LA offices.

King's private life has been almost as storied as his on-screen career: in April he filed for divorce from his seventh wife Shawn Southwick, citing "irreconcilable differences."

Although Southwick was King's seventh wife, it was the eighth time he had filed for a divorce. He was twice married and divorced to Alene Akins, with whom he split in 1972.

Tributes have been flowing since he announced he was leaving the show. "We will miss Larry's giggle. We will miss Larry's stupid suspenders," said Washington Post TV columnist Lisa de Moraes.

"We will miss the way he, at times, has no idea who he is

interviewing. There will never be another like Larry," she added.

King's last show, broadcast from CNN's Los Angeles offices on Sunset Boulevard, will air at 6:00 pm Pacific Coast Time (0200 GMT) Thursday, and CNN says it has "a bunch of surprises for him."

But King insists he is not retiring.

He is contracted to do four "specials" per year for CNN, as well as more of the charity work he has done for years.

He is expected to remain a regular at the Beverly Hills delicatessen he has frequented for years for breakfast.

Former British tabloid editor turned talent show judge Morgan, who will take over from January, has praised King while promising to develop his own more "theatrical" style of interviewing.

"I have watched Larry King Live for much of the last 25 years, and dreamed of one day filling the legendary suspenders of the man I consider to be the greatest TV interviewer of them all," he said.

Johnny Depp remembers 'magical' night walks in Venice

ROME (AFP) — US megastar Johnny Depp spoke fondly on Wednesday of his "magical" night-time walks through Venice while shooting his latest film "The Tourist," which has been nominated for three Golden Globe awards.

Depp was speaking during a visit to Rome to promote the film, which was shot partly in Paris and partly in the famous island city in northern Italy, by "The Lives of Others" director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck and also stars Angelina Jolie.

"My experience of Venice really happened between 10pm and 2am when the streets

closed and I was able to walk around and experience the poetry of Venice, the ghosts of Venice, all those wonderful dark alleys," Depp said.

"For an actor being able to film within the confines of that magical city certainly helps.... The city's magic shone through completely," said the actor, who wore a grey fedora hat, a cream waistcoat and a black neckerchief.

"The Tourist" was nominated on Tuesday for the 2011 Golden Globe awards for best comedy, best actor for Depp and best actress for Jolie.

The film, which was shot over five months in Venice earlier



this year, premiered in the United States earlier this month.

It revolves around Frank, played by Depp, an American tourist visiting Italy to mend a broken heart who comes across Elise (Jolie).

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Lochte on the double as records tumble in Dubai



Ryan Lochte

DUBAI (AFP) - American Ryan Lochte bagged his second gold medal of the world short course swimming championships here on Thursday as two new world records were set on the second night of competition.

Lochte, 26, was first to get in on the action, claiming his second title here, but more importantly also the first individual world record of 2010.

He sped to victory in the 400m individual medley in 3min 55.50sec, slicing close to two seconds off the previous mark set by Laszlo Cseh of Hungary in December last year.

Lochte was then also involved in the second record-breaking race of the night, but had to settle for the silver with his teammates in the 4x200m freestyle relay.

The Americans were neck and neck with the Russian quartet of Nikita Lobintsev, Danila Izotov, Evgeny Lagunov and Alexander Sukhorukov, but it was the Russians who took the gold in a world record time of 6:49.04.

The American team of Peter Vanderkaay, Lochte, Garrett Weber-Gale and Richard Berens, also dipped under the previous world

mark of 6:51.05, set by Canada in August last year, taking silver in 6:49.58. France were third in 6:53.05.

"We really wanted to beat the US team and we were happy to do it," said Izotov.

"We were very confident that we could do it and hope this can become a tradition. Everybody did their best and we are extremely happy."

Although Lochte wouldn't have been pleased to miss out on another world title in the relay, his gold earlier in the evening completes a hat-trick of titles in the 400m individual medley, having also won at the 2006 and 2008 world championships.

"I wasn't really expecting that (world record). I was going out there, racing the field, and I had no idea where I was during the race. I'm really happy, it was a world record and you have to be happy with that," Lochte said.

In the 100m backstroke, it was Russia's European champion Stanislav Donets who claimed gold in a championship record time of 49.07 seconds, with Camille Lacourt of France taking silver in 49.80 and Aschwin Wildeboer Faber of Spain bronze in

50.04.

Meanwhile, South African world record holder Cameron van der Burgh went one better than his silver in Manchester two years ago to take gold in the 100m breaststroke in another championship record time of 56.80.

Italy's Fabio Scozzoli was second in 57.13 with Brazil's Felipe Silva taking the bronze in 57.39.

"This is a great wrap up to the season. It's been long but a great season and fantastic to at least defend my title as world record holder," said van der Burgh.

America's Natalie Coughlin also got in on the record-breaking action, taking gold in the women's 100m backstroke in a championship record time of 56.08. Zhao Jing of China was second in 56.18 and Gao Chang third in 56.21.

Russia's Evgeny Korotyshekin claimed gold in the men's 100m butterfly in 50.23 seconds with Albert Subirats losing out by just one hundredth of a second, but taking Venezuela's first medal of the championships, with Brazil's Kaio Almeida winning bronze.

American Rebecca Soni took top honours in the women's 50m breaststroke, bagging the gold in 29.83sec while Australia's Leiston Pickett took silver, also by just one hundredth of a second, with China's Zhao Jin third in 29.90.

Spain went 1-2 in the women's 800m freestyle, with Erika Villaecija taking gold in 8:11.61 and Wednesday's double gold medallist Mireia Belmonte the silver in 8:12.48.

European teams braced for last 16 draw

PARIS (AFP) - Seven previous winners and three debutants are among the sides in the hat for today's eagerly-awaited Champions League last 16 knock-out stage draw in Switzerland.

The teams that have made it through the first round group stage will be divided into two pots - group winners and group runners-up - in the draw at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon.

Clubs from the same group, or from the same country, cannot meet.

Holders Inter Milan, who were pipped to first place in Group A by Champions League newcomers Tottenham, could face a trip to Old Trafford to face Manchester United, or Chelsea.

Spurs, as reward for topping their table, will avoid the likes of Barcelona, nine-time winners Real Madrid, or Bayern Munich, with Danish outfit FC Copenhagen or Valencia among the sides they could be drawn against.

Arsenal, runners-up in their group to Shakhtar Donetsk, could be pitted against Barcelona, who knocked the Gunners out at the quarter-final stage last season.

"Let's be realistic, Barcelona are the super favourite at the moment," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger reflected.

"But we take what we get and if it is Barcelona, it is Barcelona."

"In the last 16 it becomes a different competition, a cup competition and that means for 180 minutes you have to be at your top."

For his part Didier Deschamps, manager of Group F runners-up Marseille, commented: "I would like to avoid Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester United or Bayern Munich."

"These sides have major match experience. At the moment those who are really strong are the Spanish. Manchester United will be even more performing in February than they are now, and Bayern will be better than they are now once they get back (Arjen) Robben."

The eight seeded group winners will be away for the first legs and at home for the return legs.

Champions League last 16 knock-out stage draw

Pot 1

Seeded group winners

A: Tottenham Hotspur

B: Schalke 04

C: Manchester United



An Adidas ball on show alongside the Champions League trophy during the UEFA Champions League Group Stage draw at the Grimaldi Forum on August 26, 2010 in Monaco, Monaco

D: Barcelona
E: Bayern Munich
F: Chelsea
G: Real Madrid
H: FC Shakhtar Donetsk
Best position: group stage

Group Runners-up

A: Inter Milan
B: Lyon
C: Valencia
D: FC Copenhagen
E: AS Roma
F: Marseille
G: AC Milan
H: Arsenal

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Lee delighted to land back in Philly



Pitcher Cliff Lee #33 of the Philadelphia Phillies adjusts his hat after being introduced to the media during a press conference

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - Cliff Lee spurned more lucrative offers for a chance to bring his family back to Philadelphia and become part of what could be a historically strong Phillies rotation. "It's plenty of money," Lee said Wednesday after his five-year, 120 million-dollar deal with the Phillies was finalized. "When you hit a certain point, enough's enough. It's just a matter of where you're comfortable, where you're happy, where your family's the most comfortable, what team gives you the best chance to win."

"At this point, it's about trying to win championships," the star left-handed hurler said. "That's really the number one thing for me. I think this team gives me the best chance to do that. That's really it."

The Texas Rangers offered Lee more money to stay, while the Yankees offered him more money to move to

New York.

Instead, Lee opted to return to the Phillies, who traded him away a year ago after he helped them reach the 2009 World Series.

"It feels great to land back here in Philadelphia," Lee said at a press conference at the Phillies' ballpark, where he donned a red pin-striped Phillies jersey with his number 33.

"I never wanted to leave this place in the first place."

The Rangers had hoped they could persuade the two-time All-Star and 2008 American League Cy Young Award winner - who helped Texas to reach their first World Series last season - to stay.

The big-spending Yankees appeared to be their biggest rivals for Lee's services.

But Philadelphia had another strong drawing card in starting pitchers Roy Halladay, Roy Oswalt and Cole Hamels, who will join with Lee to form a formidable

starting rotation.

The Phillies' top four starters have three Cy Young Awards, 13 All-Star game appearances, two National League Championship Series Most Valuable Player awards, one perfect game and one postseason no-hitter to their combined credit.

"That was the main thing, getting a chance to be part of that rotation with this team and what they've kind of established in the National League East, being the leader there," Lee said. "It was kind of a no-brainer."

Lee denied that his decision to reject the Yankees had anything to do with reportedly boorish behavior of Yankees fans toward his wife and the wives of other Rangers players during postseason games.

"No one came up to my wife and spat on her. Nobody poured anything on her," Lee said. "You go to any stadium, the opposing team stands and starts cheering, especially in the postseason, fans are going to say things to them, they're going to do things, that's part of it."

"That story was way overblown and was false and had zero to do with the whole thing," Lee said.

Lee clearly appreciates passionate fans - something Philadelphia is famous for.

"The intensity that you can feel when you get in the game, it has an elevated feel to it. Compared to everywhere else, it's completely different," Lee said of the atmosphere created by Phillies fans.

"I don't know what the fans do to create that much more volume and excitement in the stadium, but it's definitely something extra here."

Judge reinstates Mayweather arrest warrant

LAS VEGAS (AFP) - A judge has reinstated an arrest warrant for boxer Floyd Mayweather jnr on a misdemeanor battery complaint for his run-in with a security guard over parking tickets.

Las Vegas police Officer Bill Cassel said Thursday that the warrant, first issued on December 8, requires Mayweather to turn himself in or face arrest at any time.

Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Tony Abbatangelo signed the arrest warrant for Mayweather after a December 7 court hearing, but immediately quashed it.

Abbatangelo said at the time that he would allow Mayweather to remain free, noting that the fighter was already at liberty on 33,000 dollars bail ahead of a January 24 arraignment date on an unrelated charge.

But prosecutors argued this week that Mayweather had received special treatment and the arrest warrant was reinstated.

If convicted of the misdemeanor batter charge, Mayweather faces a possible six-month jail sentence and a 1,000-dollar fine.



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Wade shines as James' Heat down Cavs



MIAMI (AFP) - Dwyane Wade scored 17 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter Wednesday as the Heat notched a second victory this season over Cleveland, the team LeBron James spurned in his move to Miami.

James, who crushed Cavs fans with his decision to depart Cleveland as a free agent and team up with Wade and Chris Bosh in Miami, scored 21 points and hauled in a season-high 13 rebounds as the Heat triumphed 101-95.

The Heat won their 10th

straight game, but the tenacious Cavaliers prevented them from becoming just the fourth NBA team to win 10 in a row all by double-digit margins.

Bosh scored 16 points for Miami, who got 14 points from Mario Chalmers and 11 from James Jones.

"I've never won 10 games in a row," Bosh said. "So I'm happy."

Daniel Gibson scored 26 points for the Cavaliers, and Anderson Varejao had 18 with 15 rebounds. Antawn Jamison scored 15 points and Mo Williams added 13 for the Cavs, who lost their ninth straight.

"I couldn't ask for them to play any harder than they played," Cavaliers coach Byron Scott said. "I thought they were terrific effort-wise. They competed for 48 minutes."

The Heat played at Cleveland on December 2, when Cavs fans ruthlessly jeered their former hero. James scored 38 points in leading Miami to victory in that contest, and while the Heat remain unbeaten since then Cleveland remain without a victory.

US official hits out at Japan over Classic

TOKYO (AFP) - A top US baseball official hit out at Japanese players Thursday for demanding more money to compete in the next World Baseball Classic, the sport's equivalent of the football World Cup.

Jim Small, the managing director of the US Major League Baseball organisation in Japan, said paying Japanese players more to play at the event would mean less money for promoting the sport in new countries.

Japan are defending WBC champions but have yet to commit to the 2013 event.

"The issue is, they feel they should be compensated differently than right now," Small told reporters Thursday, according to Kyodo news agency. "We obviously disagree."

The US Major League Baseball organisation created the WBC to promote the game worldwide by featuring their stars fighting for their countries.

Small said Japanese players needed to understand that the WBC existed for the greater good of the game and not for making money.

"Our goal is for most of

the money in the tournament to go back to into building baseball," he said, according to Kyodo.

With baseball out of the Olympics and no money coming from the International Olympic Committee, the WBC is now a vital source of revenue, he said.

"The Japanese players need to understand that every dollar they try to take for themselves is not going to baseball in China, baseball in South Africa, countries that need the development dollars," he said.

Japan won the inaugural event in 2006 and retained the title in 2009, helped by Seattle Mariners star outfielder Ichiro Suzuki, but many MLB big names have skipped the tournament as it

clashes with pre-season build-up.

Small told Kyodo that he expects Japanese players to eventually come to their senses and try to win the championship for a third consecutive time.

"If we continue to talk to them, if we continue to exchange information and I think eventually they'll understand the compensation they're receiving is fair," he said.

"Based on the amount of contribution to the overall pot, the actual Japanese player is making far more than the US player. The US is still contributing more money to the pot, but the US player is making less than the Japanese player."

Qatar could share 2022 World Cup matches - FIFA

ABU DHABI (AFP) - It will be up to Qatar to decide if they want to share 2022 World Cup matches with neighbouring countries, FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke announced on Thursday.

"It's Qatar who must express their wish and it will be

Qatar who will make the decision in the first instance. Qatar must decide and then seek the authorisation of the (FIFA) executive committee," said Valcke, who is in Abu Dhabi ahead of this weekend's Club World Cup final.

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